

**From:** adam@tameware.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am dismayed by the DOJ action against Microsoft. It makes me ashamed to be an American. I urge the court to dismiss the suit entirely, or, failing that, to impose the mildest sanctions possible.

I use Microsoft's software on a regular basis -- it's certainly improved my life. While I prefer using Macintosh computers to PCs running Windows, I have nothing but admiration for Microsoft's accomplishments. Claiming there are no alternatives to Microsoft products is laughable. Not only are there a host of alternatives, but if Microsoft were ever to attempt to charge exorbitant rates for its wares I and a host of others would rush in to compete.

To say that Microsoft has a monopoly for PC operating systems is meaningless. What makes an "industry standard" PC standard is precisely the fact that it runs Windows. Microsoft has a monopoly in the same sense that Tom Clancy has a monopoly on "The Hunt for Red October". This monopoly is the right of a producer to his product -- it is guaranteed by Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

Microsoft has never harmed me, nor do I ever expect it to. How could it? My transactions with Microsoft are voluntary. This court, however, can harm me and every American. By restricting Microsoft's freedom everyone's freedom is restricted. This would be too big a price even if there were a public interest to be served by such a restriction. In fact there is none. It is Microsoft who has been serving the public, as evidenced daily by those who voluntarily purchase Microsoft's products. Whether or not they realize it, even Microsoft's competitors benefit from Microsoft's presence, which spurs them to added effort and ever-higher levels of quality. Were it not for Microsoft many of them would not exist! Without Microsoft most computers might still be running CP/M -- that would be a sad state of affairs.

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